

**BATES TOWNSHIP BOARD**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Bates Township Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Oberlin called the meeting to order; Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Supervisor Oberlin, Clerk Benson-Stafford, Treasurer Nelson, Trustees Franzene & Adams present. Also, in attendance were PW Benson; County Comm Stafford; ZA Shankleton; Mike Golas, P&R; Margee Brennan, ZBA & BHPS; Larry Nelson, PC; Sue Passamani, BHPS; Residents. Assessor Erhart & ZA Shankleton were absent.

**ATTENDEES**

A motion was made by Trustee Adams to approve the minutes from the previous month's meetings. Supported by Trustee Franzene. All ayes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Treasurer's report for the month of August 2023 was submitted. A motion was made by Clerk Benson-Stafford to accept the report. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Oberlin, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

General Fund:	\$ 181,591.54
Sewer Fund:	\$ 121,646.93
Water Fund:	\$ 333,267.60
Road Fund:	\$ 1,818.28

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Comm Stafford stated the DIHD is moved into their new building in Crystal Falls. The former building is for sale.

**COUNTY COMM REPORT**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Road Projects- Nothing new to report.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Assessor Report – Assessor Erhart was absent, Oberlin read her report. There are 2 small claims filed with the MTT. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

Zoning Update – ZBA Shankleton was absent, Oberlin read his report. There are 33 zoning permits to date. / 2 violation properties have now exceeded their 60 days to correct. He is following up with a 10-day compliance letter. / The planning commission will meet on October 2. / A copy of the report is on file with the Clerk.

**ZONING UPDATE**

WIDL Report – Trustee Adams said the library will be looking to renew their millage at a 2024 election. / They have 4 new computers. / 1921 checkouts & 510 items loaned to other libraries during the past month.

**WIDL**

Bates Hall Preservation Society Update – Sue Passamani gave a report. They are now selling decals at \$5 each and \$7 for magnetic decals. / An anonymous person helped them to complete a grant application for Michigan Community Centers. / They will be distributing the Dina Mia Pizza fundraiser items at the Bates Hall on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. / There was discussion about reprinting the original Bates Township Centennial Book. The BHPS has deferred the project to the Township Board. Clerk Benson-Stafford will look into this.

**BHPS UPDATE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Cemetery Decoration Removal - Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish the removal date which is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CEMETERY DECO REMOVAL**

Park Closing – Campground gates are closed. Park will be closed on October 1.

**PARK CLOSING**

ZBA & BOR Ads – Clerk Benson-Stafford will publish ads for members wanted.

**ZBA/BOR MEMBER AD**

**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

PAR Plan Grant Application Resolution - A motion was made by Trustee Franzene to adopt a resolution to authorize Supervisor Oberlin to apply for a grant for the sewer lift station generators. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PAR PLAN GRANT APPL.**

**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

Bates Gaastra Rd / Property Sale Inquiry – An inquiry was made regarding the sale of township property on Bates Gaastra Rd. A motion was made by Nelson to investigate the value of the property. Supported by Franzene. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes; Nelson, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried. / Brennan questioned why the township would sell it. Oberlin stated for tax revenue. / Benson-Stafford said she believes it's low land. / If it was to be sold it would be published and available to any potential Buyer and sold without any liability to the township.

**BATES  
GAASTRA RD  
PROPERTY**

Water Fund Transfer – Per the Auditors recommendation and per the agreement with Rural Development regarding the Township water loan, a motion was made by Oberlin to authorize Treasurer Nelson to keep 591-000-002.100 (2012 Water Bond Reserve) at an \$88000 balance and move the difference to 591-000-003.100 (2012 Water Repair, Replacement, Improvement Fund). Also, stop the \$2200 quarterly deposit in the 2012 Water Bond Reserve and move it to the Water Repair, Replacement, Improvement Fund, thereby increasing that quarterly deposit to \$7834. Supported by Benson-Stafford. Roll call vote: Franzene, yes; Adams, yes; Nelson, yes; Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**WATER  
FUND  
TRANSFER**

ZBA Training – The township is looking into having the township Attorney do ZBA training via zoom or in-person training. Clerk Benson-Stafford is waiting for the estimated cost to have the Attorney do in-person training. No action taken.

**ZBA  
TRAINING**

Water Meter Reader/Animal Control – The meter reader has been bitten 3 times by dogs at different locations. There was discussion about possible solutions. The township will start with a letter to the three specific pet owners.

**WATER  
METER  
READER/  
DOG BITES**

February Election – Clerk Benson-Stafford said with board approval Bates will be a stand-alone EVP township. The state is still finalizing the procedures.

**FEBRUARY  
ELECTION**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Hall-** Nothing new to report. / **Shop-** Nothing new to report. / **Water** – PW Benson said they were replacing a portion of waterline on Sec 22 Rd, before DTE installs a new gas line. / **Sewer** – The lift station generator switches and slabs were in the process of being installed. / **Cemetery** – Nothing new to report. / **Park** – A motion was made by Adams to put a handicap bar in the bathrooms at the park. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried. / **School** – Nothing new to report. **Paint River Boat Launch** – The dock has been pulled in for the season.

**GUEST COMMENTS**

- Mike Golas inquired about the status of the siding ordinance.
- Jim Andersen inquired about the stop work order at his neighbors.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- ICECA
- Reporter – Fire Prevention Week Ad / A motion was made by Franzene to send \$50 to the WIC Fire Dept in lieu of the ad. Supported by Nelson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**INVOICE APPROVAL**

Trustee Franzene made a motion to pay the township invoices. Supported by Trustee Adams. Roll call vote: Oberlin, yes; Benson-Stafford, yes; Nelson, yes; Adams, yes; Franzene, yes. Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm. Next regular meeting will be held at the Twp Hall on Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

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Barbara Benson-Stafford, Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_